

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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### Sunday, January 13, 2019 | 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 8 – Sunday After the Theophany | Afterfeast of the Theophany

Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus of Belgrade (ca. 315)

Martyr Peter of Anium, at Hieropolis (ca. 309-310)

### V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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## Weekly Schedule

Today: Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.

Saturday: January 19 – Great Vespers at **4:00PM!** *[Note Time Change]*

Sunday: January 20 – Venerable Euthymius the Great  
Reading of Hours – 9:30am  
Divine Liturgy – 10:00am  
*Fellowship & coffee hour to follow the Divine Liturgy*

Sunday: January 20 – Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.  
**Topic:** Don't Be Tone Deaf! Understanding the Arrangements and Beauty of the Eight Tones during all Liturgical Services.

Sunday: January 20 - Great Blessing of Water begins at 3:00PM along Boathouse Row on the Schuylkill River.

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 8)**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! / Thou didst accept the three day burial / to free us from our sufferings! // O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

### **Troparion (Tone 1 – Feast of Theophany)**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, / the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. / For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, / and called Thee His beloved Son; / and the Spirit in the form of a dove / confirmed the truthfulness of His word. / O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself // and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

### **Troparion (Tone 4 - Martyrs)**

Thy holy martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus, O Lord, / through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God. / For having Thy strength, they laid low their adversaries, / and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. // Through their intercessions save our souls!

### **Kontakion (Tone 8)**

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrected Adam. / Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, / and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

### **Kontakion (Tone 4 – Feast of Theophany)**

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, / and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. / Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises. / Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, // O unapproachable Light.

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 1 – Sunday After Theophany)**

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee.  
v. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the upright!

### **Epistle Reading: Ephesians 4:7-13 (Sunday After Theophany)**

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 5 – Sunday After Theophany)



- v. I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. Alleluia (3x's)
- v. For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens. Alleluia (3x's)

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-17 (Sunday After Theophany)**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**[Instead of “It is truly meet..” we sing the Hymn to the Theotokos]**

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,  
more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts!

No tongue knows how to praise thee worthily, O Theotokos;  
even Angels are overcome with awe praising thee.  
But since thou art good, accept our faith;  
for thou knowest our love inspired by God.  
Thou art the defender of Christians, and we magnify thee.

**Communion Hymn:**

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all.  
Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia (3x's)

**Announcements**

**A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guests** who worshiped with us today and who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

## Announcements

### **2019 House Blessing**

If you wish to have your home blessed, please speak with Father Mark for date availability to schedule a house blessing. The blessing of houses will begin after Theophany, which is Sunday, January 6. Items of importance when having your home blessed: 1) have a candle available to be burned during the house blessing, 2) a bowl of blessed holy water, 3) an icon (preferably the icon of Christ being baptized in the Jordan River), and 4) please make enough space for Father Mark to maneuver in the rooms you wish him to bless.

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### **THANK YOU:**

Father Mark & Matushka Jan Koczak wish to thank you for all of your kind cards, gifts, and well-wishes that they received this Christmas Season and for Matushka Jan's birthday cards and gifts. May God bless you all and yours in this New Year!

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### **THANK YOU:**

Peter and Heather Parsells would like to thank everyone for their prayers, support, kind wishes, cards and gifts during Heather's pregnancy and with the birth of their son Luke. The family appreciates what everyone has done for them and Luke loves all the attention he is receiving from the parish ☺.

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As a result of our church holding its Annual Parish Meeting two Sundays from today, the next Church Life Discussion Lecture on the Tones will be held next week on **Sunday, January 20, 2019** after Divine Liturgy up in the Church.

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### **2019 January & February Calendar Dates:**

January 13 - Property Committee Meeting  
January 20 – Great Blessing of the Water on the Schuylkill River  
January 20 – Church Life Discussion Class on the Tones  
January 24 and 25 – 55<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Assembly in Bethlehem, PA  
January 27 – Annual Parish Meeting after Liturgy  
February 1 and 2 – Meeting of our Lord in the Temple (Services TBD)  
February 3 – Soup N' Bowl IV after Liturgy



**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

Irene Torpy & Daria LeRoy offered by Nina Patterson  
Judi Currier offered by Melanie Albrecht  
Joseph Herbert, Mildred O'Shura, John Herbert offered by M/M Herbert

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

Anna & Michael Pellack offered by the Pellack Family  
Anna Rabik offered by Joseph Rabik  
Anna Rapusnik offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Helen Gerasimoff, June Gerasimoff offered by Catherine Kavalkovich  
Michael Spack Sr. offered by M/M Herbert

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Dr. Jane Kelly; Luke Emmanuel Parsells (**Baptized – Dec 29**) Heather Parsells; Peter Parsells; David Pellack; Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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The **55<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Assembly** will be held in two weeks (Thursday, January 24 and Friday, January 25) at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Bethlehem PA. Father Mark will be attending the Assembly both days and the parish has scheduled one of our parishioners to attend the Friday sessions as our parish delegate. Any pertinent information or action taken during the Assembly will be reported by the parish representatives during our Annual Parish Meeting in two weeks (Sunday, January 27) after Divine Liturgy.

**Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!**

## Announcements (cont.)

**Coffee Hour / Cleaning and Epistle / Hours Reading Schedule.**

We now have an established full rotating schedule for the Coffee Hour & Cleaning, and the Hours & Epistle Readings. The Reading schedule sheets will be posted quarterly on the bulletin board in the church basement. The Coffee Hour/Cleaning schedule is in a binder located on the display case.

**Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon.**

In addition to our general collection, the parish takes a special collection each week to fund certain parish projects. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. The special collections are as follows:

- First Sunday of every month – Kitchen Fund Project
- Second Sunday of every month – Youth Fund (*reactivated July 2018*)
- Third Sunday of every month - Restoration/Maintenance Fund
- Fourth Sunday of every month – Charity Giving

Note: if there is a Fifth Sunday during a month, the special collection is earmarked for the Kitchen Fund Project, unless otherwise noted and stated by the Parish Council.

**Cash Flow Activity (December/January)**

	<u>Week of December 31 to January 6</u>	<u>December Month (Unaudited)</u>
Attendance:	38	42 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 3,010.00	\$ 12,449.62
Funds Out:	\$ 0.00	\$ 14,273.31
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 3,010.00	(\$ 1,823.69)

Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!

**Shop Rite Gift Cards:** If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see David Pellack to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card is an additional fundraising project that helps support the church at no additional expense to the purchaser.



## Calendar of Events

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month** – Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.

**Today – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Church School Room! (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month)!**

All property committee members are asked to attend the meeting. Discussions will include any follow-ups from the previous meeting; Church status from the recent water damage on north side of building; Hall status update; tenant situation at 2109 house; and the work performed on 2111 house.

**Great Blessing of the Waters – Sunday, January 20, 2019 – 3PM!**

The Pan-Orthodox Christian Brotherhood of Greater Philadelphia announces a joint Orthodox Christian Celebration of Epiphany on January 20, 2019 at 3pm along the Schuylkill River at the Fairmont Boat House, located at 2 Boathouse Row and Kelly Drive, Philadelphia, PA. This traditional service known as “The Greater Blessing of the Waters” will commemorate the Baptism of Jesus Christ in the River Jordan by St. John the Baptist. For more information please speak with Father Mark Koczak about this event.

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement. This is Notice #2 of 3.**

According to Article IV, Section 2, Subsection A. of the Parish By-Laws, notice of all Annual and General Parish Meetings shall be announced in the Parish Bulletin and read by the Parish Rector from the amvon on three consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the Meeting. The Spiritual Advisor’s report, the Treasurer’s report, the voting on the 2019 budget, along with any other business that needs to be discussed. The election of the 2019 parish council officers took place during the Fall Parish meeting back in November 2018.

**Soup N’ Bowl IV Challenge – Sunday February 3, 2019 after Divine Liturgy (including Stews & Chili)!** We are looking for participants to prepare their best soup, stew, or chili and faceoff against each other once again. The parishioners & guest will indulge in each dish & cast a ballot for which one they enjoy the most. Additional details to follow!

**Cleaning Teams:** Today (Jan 13): Saint Bridget of Ireland (Catherine Kavalkovich, Al Kavalkovich, Emily Gerasimoff, Simon Herbert).  
Next Week (Jan 20): Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (Mark Klus, Tish Berchtold, Sheba Patton, Barbara Andrews).



## **Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus of Belgrade** [January 13<sup>th</sup>]

The Holy Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus, Slavs by origin, lived at the beginning of the fourth century during a persecution against Christians by the emperor Licinius (311-324). Saint Hermylus served as deacon in the city of Singidunum (Belgrade). Condemned by Licinius to imprisonment, he was long and cruelly tortured for Christ, but he remained unyielding.

Hermylus mocked the pagan gods, calling them deaf, dumb, and blind idols. In anger Licinius ordered more severe torments for him, saying that he could avoid them if he would offer sacrifice. The holy martyr predicted that Licinius would suffer terrible wounds himself because he worshiped idols instead of the Creator. His words came true, for Licinius was killed in 324.

After three days Hermylus was brought before the tribunal again and asked whether he would avoid more torture by offering sacrifice. The saint replied that he would offer worship and sacrifice only to the true God.

Saint Hermylus prayed that the Lord would give him strength to endure his torments and triumph over the pagans. A voice was heard saying, "Hermylus, you will be delivered from your suffering in three days, and will receive a great reward." The torturers fell to the ground in fear, and took the saint back to prison.

Saint Stratonicus was one of the prison guards and a secret Christian. Seeing the agonizing torments of his friend, he was unable to keep from weeping, and he revealed that he was a Christian. They also subjected him to punishment.

After the torture, they put both martyrs into a net and threw them into the Danube. On the third day, the bodies of the saints were found by Christians on the bank of the river and buried near Singidunum. Their venerable heads were in the Church of Hagia Sophia, where the Russian pilgrim Anthony saw them in the year 1200.